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Cavity ring-down spectroscopy of H_2^{17}O in the range $16\,570\text{--}17\,125\text{ cm}^{-1}$

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Abstract

Following previous investigations on H_2^{16}O and H_2^{18}O by cavity ring-down spectroscopy, this method has now been applied to investigate the energy region of the 5ν polyad in the absorption spectrum of H_2^{17}O . In the range $16\,570\text{--}17\,125\text{ cm}^{-1}$, the highest energy range investigated for the H_2^{17}O isotopologue so far, 516 lines are attributed to H_2^{17}O and assigned from a newly generated line list.
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Keywords: Water vapor; Visible spectra; Isotopologues; Cavity ring-down; Water vapor spectrum; Atmosphere

1. Introduction

The absorption spectrum of water vapor in the $16\,570\text{--}17\,125\text{ cm}^{-1}$ energy range covers the entire 5ν polyad, which lies in a window used for remote sensing of this molecule, which is considered the most important greenhouse gas. Retrieval of water vapor column densities, using this rather weak absorption feature on a global scale has been demonstrated with data obtained by the satellite instrument SCIAMACHY [1,2]. Naus et al. [3] studied the absorption spectrum of natural water (containing 99.732% H_2^{16}O , 0.200% H_2^{18}O , 0.037% H_2^{17}O , and 0.031% HDO, see also [4]) in the frequency region $16\,555\text{--}18\,000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ employing the laser-based technique of cavity ring-down (CRD) spectroscopy. Due to the good signal-to-noise ratio provided by the highly sensitive CRD method 1830 lines were found of which 800 were not included in HITRAN 96, the database prevailing at the time. Of the set of weak lines 111 were given an assignment from a comparison with first principles

calculations. Subsequently from a ^{18}O isotopically enriched water sample a narrower energy region, still covering the most intense part of the 5ν polyad, was investigated for H_2^{18}O , yielding 596 lines belonging to H_2^{18}O , of which 375 could be assigned based on the production of a new theoretical line list [5]. Here, in a continuation of this work, we report of an investigation of the H_2^{17}O spectrum, again covering the 5ν polyad, using the same CRD setup at the Laser Centre VU Amsterdam. From a comparison with spectra of H_2^{16}O and H_2^{18}O 516 lines are attributed to H_2^{17}O and assigned on the basis of a newly produced line list. After previous investigations in the mid-infrared reporting on H_2^{17}O (000) and (010) rotational states [6], overtone rovibrational transitions were investigated in the energy regions $6600\text{--}7640\text{ cm}^{-1}$ [7], $9711\text{--}11\,335\text{ cm}^{-1}$ [8], and $11\,335\text{--}14\,520\text{ cm}^{-1}$ [9]. The present observations are in the highest energy region investigated so far for H_2^{17}O .

2. Experimental

The experimental procedures and conditions are very similar to the ones used for the H_2^{16}O and H_2^{18}O measurements

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described previously [3,5]. In short, a cavity ring-down experiment was performed using a cell of length ≈ 85 cm sealed with mirrors of reflectivity $\approx 99.99\%$ and radius of curvature of 50 cm. Tunable laser radiation in pulses of 5 ns and bandwidth ≈ 0.06 cm^{-1} , obtained from a Nd:YAG pumped dye laser system (Quanta-Ray PDL-3), was employed to induce the ring-down transients. The observed exponential decays were converted into an absorption spectrum following well-established methods [10]. In case of very strong lines the obtained decay transients are almost fully collapsed, causing saturation in the absorption profiles. Line positions and intensities were obtained from the resulting absorption spectrum by fitting Voigt profiles to the resonances.

Isotopic composition of the ^{17}O -enriched water sample (CAMPRO Scientific) was: 83.8% atom ^{17}O , 8.3% atom ^{16}O , and 7.9% atom ^{18}O . The contamination of H_2^{16}O was estimated to be about 10% and that of H_2^{18}O is roughly the same because of the residuals from the sample cell and mirrors, which were used for the previous H_2^{18}O

measurements. This leaves about 80% of sample water belonging to H_2^{17}O , with an estimated error of about 5%. The total pressure during the measurements was at the saturation point of water at 294 ± 1 K, corresponding to 25 mbar. As for the frequency positions the H_2^{17}O lines were calibrated against an I_2 reference spectrum [11] as well as against the known line positions of H_2^{16}O and H_2^{18}O lines, resulting in an estimated accuracy of 0.05 cm^{-1} .

To eliminate the H_2^{16}O and H_2^{18}O lines and to identify the lines belonging to H_2^{17}O , the spectrum of natural abundance water vapor by Naus et al. [3] and the H_2^{18}O spectrum by Tanaka et al. [5] were plotted with the H_2^{17}O spectrum in a single graph. Fig. 1 shows a portion of the graph with the natural abundance (top), H_2^{17}O (middle), and H_2^{18}O spectrum (bottom). The H_2^{16}O lines are narrower than the H_2^{17}O and H_2^{18}O lines because of the different pressure conditions used in the experiments. Each line in the H_2^{17}O spectrum was manually attributed to H_2^{16}O , H_2^{17}O or H_2^{18}O . After this procedure, 516 lines are

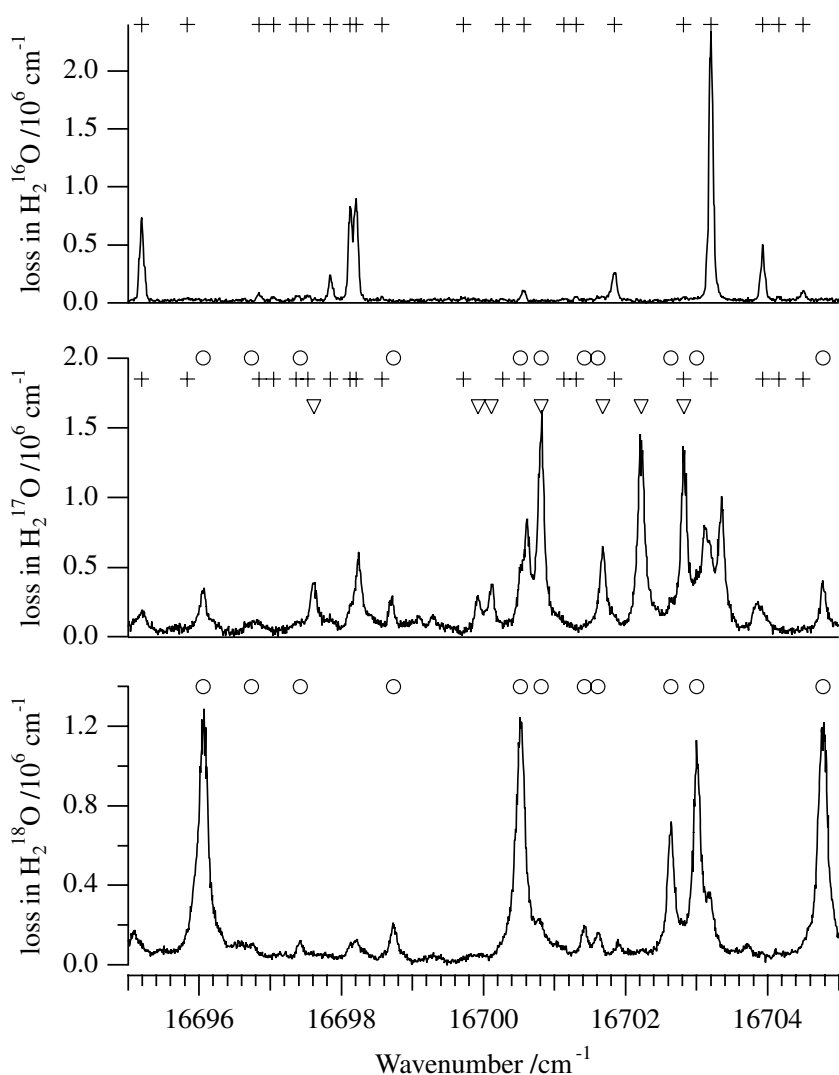


Fig. 1. A portion of the measured spectrum of H_2^{17}O (middle) compared with natural abundance spectrum by Naus et al. [3] (top) and H_2^{18}O spectrum by Tanaka et al. [5] (bottom). The markers indicate line positions of the different isotopologues— H_2^{16}O (+), H_2^{17}O (∇), and H_2^{18}O (○).

identified as belonging to H_2^{17}O . Of these 516 lines, 32 and 27 lines are found to be overlapped by lines pertaining to H_2^{16}O and H_2^{18}O , respectively. All lines attributed to H_2^{17}O are presented in the Appendix to this paper, which is deposited in the electronic archive of the Journal of Molecular Spectroscopy. The resulting line list contains 576 transitions taking into account unresolved multiplets.

3. Assignment results

A theoretical line list for H_2^{17}O , at a temperature of 296 K, was calculated using the DVR3D program suite

Table 1
Summary of H_2^{17}O vibrational energy levels determined in this study

Band	Origin (cm^{-1})	Number of levels	Number of transitions
(340) or 30^+4		14	19
(241) or 30^-4		9	10
(043) or 21^-4		5	9
(142) or 21^+4		16	19
(420) or 40^+2	16798.83 (10)	66	86
(321) or 40^-2	16797.167	71	135
(222) or 31^+2		1	1
(123) or 31^-2		2	2
(500) or 50^+0	16875.27 (2)	51	92
(401) or 50^-0	16875.620	61	135
(302) or 41^+0		2	1
(260) or 20^+6		3	5
(161) or 20^-6		1	1
(081) or 10^-8		1	1
Total		303	516

Bands are labelled using normal mode (left) and local mode (right) notations. Number of levels shows the number of newly determined energy levels. Number of transitions shows the number of transitions to the vibrational bands.

[12] with potential energy surfaces (PES) by Shirin et al. [13]. This adiabatic potential energy surface for three major isotopologues of water, H_2^{16}O , H_2^{17}O , and H_2^{18}O , was constructed by fitting to a large set of vibration–rotation energy levels of the three isotopologues known at the time. The fit was based on 1788 experimental energy levels with rotational quantum numbers $J=0, 2$, and 5 and reproduced these observed levels with a standard deviation of 0.079 cm^{-1} .

This line list for H_2^{17}O is built upon energy levels up to 26000 cm^{-1} and $J \leq 10$. The DVR3D [12] was used with 29 radial grid points for Morse oscillator-like basis functions and 40 angular grid points based on (associated) Legendre polynomials. Vibrational Hamiltonian matrices of final dimension 1500 were diagonalised and for rotational problems these matrices had dimension $300 \times (J+1-p)$, where J is the rotational quantum number and p , the parity. Nuclear masses of ^{17}O and H have been used to generate the line list. For the intensity calculations the best available dipole moment surface (DMS) of Schwenke and Partridge [14] was used.

Assignments were made relying on matches between observed and calculated frequencies and intensities. For this purpose values for absolute intensities (in cm molecule^{-1}) were estimated based on sample pressure and relative abundance of H_2^{17}O in the gaseous sample. The intensities are put on an absolute scale for H_2^{17}O in natural abundance by adopting 0.0372% of H_2^{17}O , normalizing to 296 K as in HITRAN [15] and using partition functions $Q(294) = 1037.253$ and $Q(296) = 1047.931$ (from cfaftp.harvard.edu). The uncertainties in the line intensities, listed in the Appendix, are at least 15% for medium intensity and well isolated lines, and may be significantly larger for the weakest lines. This uncertainty also includes an

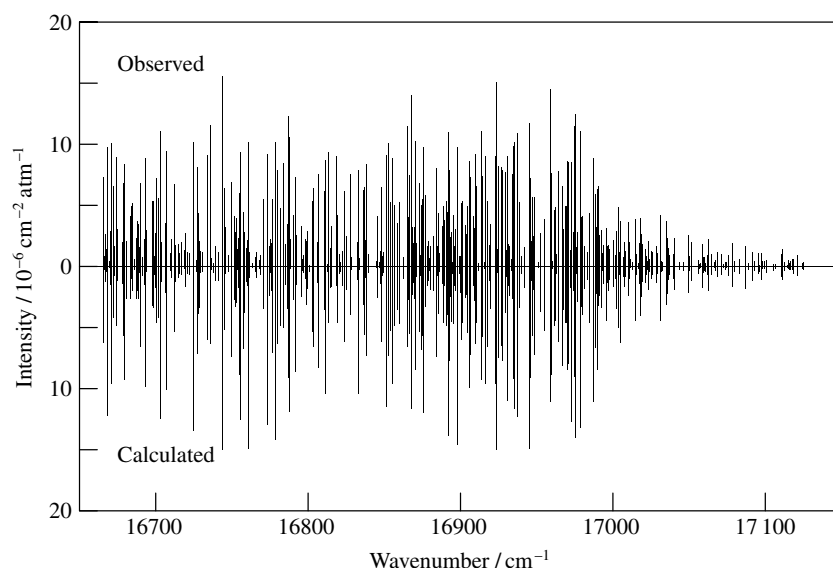


Fig. 2. Overview of the H_2^{17}O experimental spectrum and the calculated line list in the $5v$ polyad region. For making a good comparison the experimental line positions and derived intensities are converted into a stick spectrum. Only 451 weakest lines of 516 observed are included in the comparison (see text). The intensities of the experimental spectrum are not scaled to its natural abundance as is common in the HITRAN database; we have chosen to present here the line strengths pertaining to the pure H_2^{17}O isotopologue.

Table 2
 H_2^{17}O energy levels in cm^{-1} for the (321), (420), (500), and (401) vibrational states

J	K_a	K_c	(321)		(420)		(401)		(500)	
0	0	0	16797.167		1		16875.620		1	
1	0	1	16819.528		1		16897.698	19.1	2	16897.357
1	1	1	16834.715	7.3	2		16908.774	0.7	2	16908.474
1	1	0	16840.429	5.7	2		16913.851	5.7	2	16913.535
2	0	2	16862.895	9.4	2		16940.629	9.4	2	16940.235
2	1	2	16873.744		1	16878.026	16947.859	8.1	2	16947.579
2	1	1	16890.803	2.0	2		16963.130	4.8	2	
2	2	1	16934.743		1		16997.232	4.1	2	16997.158
2	2	0	16935.897	2.6	2	16933.302	16998.753	4.2	2	16998.550
3	0	3	16924.975	3.9	2	16927.232	17001.077	2.9	2	17000.660
3	1	3	16931.569	9.4	2	16936.017	17006.098	0.0	2	17005.395
3	1	2	16965.318	7.4	2	16971.751	17035.922	3.6	3	17035.598
3	2	2	17001.662	1.7	3	16999.058	17063.768	4.8	3	17063.848
3	2	1	17008.435	8.8	3	17005.404	17070.088	7.6	3	17070.022
3	3	1	17083.619	7.0	2	17082.457	17138.736	5.9	2	17137.421
3	3	0	17083.856	0.3	2	17082.702	17138.966	3.9	2	17137.628
4	0	4	17004.235	10.8	2	17010.364	17079.356	1.8	2	17079.173
4	1	4	17006.961	2.0	2	17012.284	17081.528	3.4	2	17081.378
4	1	3	17062.430	11.5	2	17071.209	17130.655	8.0	3	17130.388
4	2	3	17089.543	3.1	3	17087.030	17151.318	6.1	2	17151.545
4	2	2	17106.187	2.9	3	17103.291	17167.451	6.0	4	17167.557
4	3	2	17174.188	2.1	3	17173.159	17230.588	0.3	3	17229.229
4	3	1	17175.674	0.2	2	17174.701	17232.052	6.4	3	17230.650
4	4	1	17273.011		1	17272.421	17345.023		1	17343.784
4	4	0	17273.297	8.3	3	17272.502	17344.996		1	17343.786
5	0	5	17098.881		1	17102.719	17174.909	8.6	2	17173.823
5	1	5	17099.444		1	17105.902	17174.993	2.3	2	17173.936
5	1	4	17179.875	1.1	2	17174.210	17245.123	1.6	2	17244.972
5	2	4	17197.436	3.2	2	17195.067	17259.003	6.2	3	17259.530
5	2	3	17229.592	5.6	2	17226.505	17290.418	10.3	3	17290.819
5	3	3	17286.838	9.8	4	17285.892	17345.313	4.3	4	17343.838
5	3	2	17292.615	6.3	3	17291.805	17351.051	4.2	3	17348.871
5	4	2	17386.151	4.4	2	17385.659	17461.631		1	
5	4	1	17386.501	18.3	2	17386.022				17460.559
5	5	1	17481.582		1	17481.351				
5	5	0	17481.579	0.6	2	17481.324				
6	0	6	17210.005		1	17215.015	17285.756	9.8	3	17285.087
6	1	6				17217.608	17285.765	4.6	2	17285.053
6	1	5	17315.417	26.7	2	17311.782	17377.466	13.0	3	17377.483
6	2	5	17324.302		1	17321.993	17385.936	4.8	2	17386.175
6	2	4	17376.552	4.5	3	17373.026	17435.707	14.7	2	17436.723
6	3	4	17421.752	3.4	3	17420.684	17482.344	0.9	3	17480.675
6	3	3	17434.884	9.9	2	17521.950	17494.398	1.5	2	17493.452
6	4	3	17523.657		1		17601.601		1	17600.387
6	4	2	17524.307	5.6	2	17523.413				
6	5	2	17617.891	5.4	2	17617.681	17773.448		1	
6	5	1	17617.906	8.9	3	17617.775	17773.452		1	
6	6	1	17750.873		1	17745.243				
6	6	0	17750.873		1	17745.239				
7	0	7	17328.143		1	17343.962	17412.671	1.6	2	
7	1	7				17345.830	17413.344	5.7	3	17413.039
7	1	6	17466.893		1					17527.176
7	2	6	17469.558	6.2	2		17531.411		1	17533.271
7	2	5	17544.033	0.7	2	17539.962	17610.338		1	17609.082
7	3	5	17576.927	16.3	2	17575.992	17640.767		1	17638.869
7	3	4	17606.965		1	17606.418	17666.841		1	17664.428
7	4	4	17680.687		1	17679.648	17765.072		1	
7	4	3	17685.263	11.9	2	17686.703				
7	5	3				17776.715				
7	5	2				17777.023				
7	6	2	17908.538	14.9	2	17903.357				
7	6	1	17908.536	17.7	2	17903.321				
7	7	1				18054.558				

Table 2 (continued)

<i>J</i>	<i>K_a</i>	<i>K_c</i>	(321)		(420)		(401)		(500)	
7	7	0			18054.558	1				
8	0	8	17480.218	1	17489.375	1	17557.813	1	17557.151	1
8	1	8			17495.650	1	17557.769	1	17557.548	1
8	1	7	17629.496	1			17693.568	1		
8	2	7	17614.643	1					17700.215	1
8	2	6	17729.099	1			17786.345	1		
8	3	6			17750.816	1			17817.599	1
8	3	5	17800.129	1	17798.843	1	17859.471	1		
8	4	4	17873.015	1	17871.827	1	17960.256	1		
8	5	4			17957.879	1				
8	5	3	17959.150	1						
8	6	3			18083.555	1				
8	6	2			18083.623	1				
8	7	2			18233.506	1				
8	7	1			18233.501	1				
9	0	9					17719.223	1		
9	1	9					17717.897	1		
9	1	8							17881.549	1
9	2	8	17803.428	1						
9	2	7	17944.381	1						
9	3	7					18020.385	1		
9	3	6		1	18013.991	1				
9	4	6			18061.642	1	18166.120	1		
10	0	10	17808.943	1			17897.202	1		
10	1	10	17811.656	1						
10	2	9	18002.266	1					18069.909	1
10	5	5	18396.659	1						

Also given are the root mean square experimental uncertainties in 10^{-3} cm^{-1} for energy levels derived from two and more lines and the number of transitions used in the level derivation.

underestimate of the line strength in typical pulsed CRD experiments, caused by multi-exponential contributions to the decays for situations where the laser line width approaches the widths of the resonances [10]. For the weak lines, as well as for blended lines, the uncertainty may reach 100–300%, an estimate based on the tendency of (obs. – calc.)/obs. in the intensities, and on the known quality of the SP dipole moment surface [14]. For the strongest lines the experimental values seem to be greatly underestimated due to saturation effects in the CRD experiments.

Comparisons of line positions and intensities were used to suggest possible assignments; additional ingredients for achieving reliable line assignments are combination differences, as well as ratios of new energy levels of H_2^{17}O to known levels of H_2^{16}O and H_2^{18}O . Identification of the four strongest bands formed by transitions involving rotational sublevels of two local mode pairs: (321)–(420) and (401)–(500) was facilitated by the use of the fact that the rotational structure of the components of local mode pair has to be identical. The assignment procedures have led to positive identification of all 516 lines attributed to H_2^{17}O . All the transitions originate in the (000) vibrational ground level and are assigned to 14 different upper levels including (321), (420), (500), and (401). A summary of vibrational energy levels included in the present analysis is given in Table 1.

Fig. 2 shows a comparison of the experimental spectrum with the calculated line list. Of the 516 observed lines, the

65 strongest ones were excluded from the comparison since their intensities were greatly underestimated due to saturation. The assignment of the strongest lines is not so difficult, even if they are saturated: as usual, they correspond to transitions involving low *J* values, and are part of well-behaved combination differences (CD). The main problem is assignment of medium intensity and, especially, the weakest lines, which often are not included into CD relations. As it is seen from the figure, observed and calculated intensities agree well throughout the entire range, confirming a high accuracy of the calculated data and the assignments performed. In the resulting identification list, the calculated intensities are presented along with the observed values. For the strongest observed lines, corresponding to calculated intensities larger than $2.2 \times 10^{-28} \text{ cm molecule}^{-1}$ (natural abundance), the calculated data are more precise, in view of the saturation in the experimental data.

The band origins for (321) and (401) are newly determined at 16797.167 and $16875.620 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, respectively. For (500) and (420) band origins were not directly observed experimentally, thus they are estimated at 16875.27 ± 0.02 and $16798.83 \pm 0.1 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, respectively from the obs. – calc. tendency for the energy levels [*J*0*J*] (in conventional [*J*, *K_a*, *K_c*] notation). The band origin for (500) has not been observed for either H_2^{16}O or H_2^{18}O . The Obs. – Calc. differences were reasonably systematic for energy levels of all four above-mentioned states, while for the other ten states the obs. – calc. ten-

Table 3

H_2^{17}O energy levels in cm^{-1} for (340), (260), (302), (142), (222), (123), (043), (241), (161), and (081) vibrational states

(340)					
4	3	2	17003.351	12.3	2
4	4	1	17180.383	11.2	2
4	4	0	17180.333		1
5	3	2	17120.958		1
5	4	2	17297.767	0.7	2
6	4	3	17439.310	5.4	2
6	5	2	17663.621		1
6	5	1	17663.654		1
7	3	5	17421.573		1
7	3	4	17430.236		1
7	4	4	17599.878		1
7	5	3	17827.467		1
7	5	2	17827.712		1
9	2	7	17725.894		1
(241)					
4	3	2	17004.696	6.0	2
4	4	1	17182.849		1
4	4	0	17182.822		1
5	4	2	17300.006		1
5	5	0	17523.875		1
6	3	3	17270.407		1
6	4	3	17440.738	26.2	2
6	4	2	17442.315	20.2	2
7	4	4	17601.678		1
(302)					
4	4	1	17862.098		1
4	4	0	17862.094		1
(123)					
6	0	6	17701.228		1
6	1	5	17809.266		1
(222)					
4	1	4	17414.118		1
(142)					
3	0	3	16901.708		1
3	1	2	16954.765		1
4	1	4	16993.400		1
4	2	3	17128.444	6.8	2
4	3	2	17272.364		1
5	0	5	17082.689		1
5	1	5	17087.879		1
5	1	4	17193.189		1
5	2	3	17267.082		1
6	1	6	17199.139		1
6	2	5	17367.961		1
7	2	5	17594.981		1
8	1	8	17478.691		1
8	2	7	17684.477		1
9	0	9	17652.142		1
9	1	9	17649.025		1
9	1	9	17649.025		1
(043)					
3	0	3	17068.650	0.1	2
3	1	3	17081.924		1
5	1	4	17349.543	2.6	3
5	3	3	17522.873		1
6	1	5	17496.478	14.7	3

Table 3 (continued)

(260)					
6	5	2	17521.583	2.0	2
6	5	1	17520.658		1
7	5	3	17683.552		1
(161)					
6	4	2	17215.931		1
(081)					
8	5	3	17691.982		1

The three quantum numbers preceding the level energies are J , K_a and K_c . Also given are the root mean square experimental uncertainties in 10^{-3} cm^{-1} for energy levels derived from two and more lines and the number of transitions used in the level derivation.

dencies were less obvious since only separate energy levels were derived for these states from the perturbed transitions borrowing their intensity from stronger bands. The level energies for all considered states are tabulated in Tables 2 and 3. The averaged absolute deviation between level energies as derived from experiment and from calculation is 0.08 cm^{-1} , whereas the maximal deviation is -0.33 cm^{-1} . These values represent the criteria on the accuracy of the theoretical models. As the presently observed levels were not included in the fitting procedure in [13] the standard deviation shows good extrapolation quality of the PES used for generating theoretical line list.

4. Discussion and conclusion

Fewer lines were attributed to H_2^{17}O in this spectrum compared to the H_2^{18}O lines in the same spectral region [5]. This is because the sample used in this experiment contained a lower concentration of H_2^{17}O and also the spectrum was significantly contaminated by H_2^{16}O and H_2^{18}O . We decided to keep all the H_2^{17}O lines overlapped by lines pertaining to other isotope species in the line list, if the contribution from the H_2^{17}O was more than 30–50%. However, some relatively strong predicted H_2^{17}O lines were not found in the spectrum since the corresponding experimental lines were unrecoverably blended by near-by much stronger H_2^{16}O , H_2^{18}O , or other H_2^{17}O lines. For the strongest vibrational level in the considered polyad region, the (401) vibrational mode, many energy levels are confirmed by combination differences. However, for the less strong modes like (321), (500), and others, energy levels were determined from a single transition (60% in total). The energy levels determined by a single weak transition are less reliable than those confirmed by combination differences.

Many energy levels of the highly excited states like (340), (142), and (241) (see Table 3) were derived from the transitions borrowing intensity from resonance partners belonging to the four strongest bands. To perform reasonable rovibrational labelling of these highly excited levels was rather difficult. As it was mentioned above, the ratios of

new energy levels of H_2^{17}O to known levels of H_2^{16}O and H_2^{18}O were used not only for assignment, but for labelling purposes also. However, a number of newly observed H_2^{17}O energy levels were not available for the H_2^{16}O and H_2^{18}O molecules. In this case, the labelling was determined on the basis of calculations within the effective Hamiltonian approach.

As it was anticipated, the line intensities generated using the DMS of [14] and the PES of [13] were found to be, on average, very close to those obtained with the same DMS of [14] and the PES by Partridge and Schwenke [16]. However, in some cases, these intensities differed strongly, in particular for transitions involving upper energy levels in close (less than 1 cm^{-1}) resonance. Thus, the SP intensities for transitions (500)[717]–[808] at 16670.641 cm^{-1} , and (500)[717]–[606] at 16967.364 cm^{-1} were predicted to be 6.6×10^{-30} and $2.0 \times 10^{-30}\text{ cm molecule}^{-1}$, respectively, while the experimental values were of 2.27×10^{-29} and $4.55 \times 10^{-29}\text{ cm molecule}^{-1}$, close to the ones evaluated in [13,14]: 2.3×10^{-29} and $3.9 \times 10^{-29}\text{ cm molecule}^{-1}$. Better agreement of the latter intensities with the observed values is a result of using more correct wave functions as provided by [13].

The H_2^{17}O water vapor spectrum in the 5ν polyad measured by CRD spectroscopy has been analysed and all 516 observed lines are now assigned yielding an important number of 303 new highly excited energy levels. The complete assignment of the observed H_2^{17}O lines has been made possible due to high-quality synthetic spectrum provided by [13,14], while the well-known calculation by Schwenke and Partridge [14,16] may be inaccurate in the considered spectral range up to 5 cm^{-1} . This is the highest frequency region to be studied for H_2^{17}O , and as such it adds to the understanding of the entire water spectrum.

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Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data for this article are available on ScienceDirect (www.sciencedirect.com) and as part of the Ohio State University Molecular Spectroscopy Archives (http://msa.lib.ohio-state.edu/jmsa_hp.htm).

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